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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,734	10/22/2003	In-Hwan Oh	24317/82301	7776

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EXAMINER

LAXTON, GARY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2838

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,734

Applicant(s)

OH, IN-HWAN

Examiner

Gary L. Laxton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the resonant DC link, comprising only one auxiliary power device must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

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Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings illustrate many power devices in the resonant DC link and the rest of the circuit as well; therefore, the link having only one is not shown.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 21, 23 and 24 all claim having a resonant DC link comprising only one auxiliary power device. This limitation is vague and indefinite. The applicant has not distinguished what exactly a power device is and an auxiliary one at that. In other words, being an “auxiliary power device” does not distinguish between circuit components. Any circuit component can be a “power device” as well as an “auxiliary power device.” Any device that consumes power, such as a diode, inductor, switch, resistor, capacitor, transformer etc, can be a power device and an auxiliary power device. Thus, for the applicant to claim that there is only one power device, while the specification and drawings illustrate many power devices, is vague and confusing rendering the claims indefinite; and therefore, the limitation will be ignored in

order to examine the claims on their merit. Claims 2-20 and 25 inherit the same through dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lauw et al (US 5,559,685).

Claims 1, 20, 21 and 23-25; Lauw et al, figure 4, disclose a converter circuit, comprising: an AC-to-DC converter (20), comprising a plurality of first power devices (21-23); a resonant DC link (30), comprising at least one auxiliary power device (S_{C1} , S_{C2}); a DC-to-AC converter (10), comprising a plurality of second power devices (BH_1 - BH_3 , BL_1 - BL_3); and DC link lines (32, 35), coupling the AC-to-DC converter, the resonant link, and the DC-to-AC converter, wherein the auxiliary power device (S_{C1} , S_{C2}) is coupled between the DC link lines (see also abstract).

Claims 14-16; Divan discloses a resonant capacitor (C_C or C_S or C_R); a diode (D_C); and a switch (S_{C1} , S_{C2}); coupled between the DC link lines and parallel with each other.

Claims 17 and 22; figure 3 – (S_{C2}).

Claims 18 and 19; first capacitor (C_C), auxiliary power device (S_{C1} , S_{C2}), resonant capacitor (C_R), inductance (L_R), second capacitor (C_S).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lauw et al (US 5,559,685) in view of Lee et al (US 5,633,793) .

Claims 4 and 10; Lauw et al discloses the claimed subject matter in regards to claims 3 and 9 supra except for the power transistors comprises a first power diode being coupled between a source and a drain of a MOSFET first power transistor.

Lee et al teaches that each bridge switch of a converter and rectifiers has an anti-parallel diode associated therewith; and it is understood that these anti-parallel diodes may be either discrete components or the body diode in the case of an active switch such as a MOSFET.

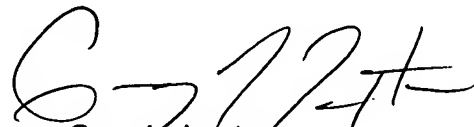
Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lauw et al to incorporate power diodes coupled between a source and a drain of a MOSFET in order to utilize the current carrying characteristics of MOSFETs as switching devices and as suggested by Lee et al.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary L. Laxton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on (571) 272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gary L. Laxton
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2838
6/29/05